Storage of Foodgrains in open godowns

3617. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of open godowns by the FCI for foodgrains storage is a permanent solution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are any risks involved like climatic or weather conditions in storing foodgrains in such open godowns; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Foodgrains are stored in the open under scientifically designed system for temporary storage called CAP (Cover and Plinth) when the covered storage capacity is exhausted.

(c) and (d) Necessary precautionary measures are taken to protect the stocks from deterioration. The stocks of foodgrains are stored on crates and covered with LDPE covers with proper preservations. These stocks are also liquidated on priority.

Rice allocation to Kerala

3618. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quantity of rice allotted to Kerala per month is sufficient to meet actual requirement of the BPL population;

(b) whether Government have placed any restriction for allocation of foodgrains to the State Governments;

(c) whether Government consider to introduce changes in the existing norms for allocation of the foodgrains to the State Governments in view of the massive stocks; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) The allocation of foodgrains to all the States including Kerala is made @ 35 kg per family per month for all the categories under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The number of BPL families has been fixed for each State on the basis of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission and population projection of the Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000.

The foodgrains allotted to the States/UTs for distribution under TPDS are only supplemental to open market availability and are not meant for meeting the entire need of any State.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Foodgrains for BPL People

3619. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the poverty ridden people are unable to buy rice, wheat even at BPL rates thereby defeating Government's "Hunger Free Country" slogan; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to enable the poorest of the poor to take benefits of the PDS and to increase their purchasing power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) To benefit the poorest of the poor, the "Antyodaya Anna Yojna" was launched on 25th December, 2000. The Scheme envisages identification of one crore poorest of the poor families from amongst the estimated number of BPL families and providing them the foodgrains at the scale of 25 kg per family per month at highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2 a kg for wheat and Rs. 3 a kg for rice. The entitlement of foodgrains for Antyodaya families has been further increased to 35 kg per family per month w.e.f. April, 2002.